

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 were presented. By this amendment, claims 4 and 16-19 are canceled, without prejudice, and claims 1, 5-11, 13 and 20 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-15 and 20 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claim 6 is noted and appreciated.

Claims 4 and 16 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Since claim 4 depends directly from claim 1, claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 4, and claim 4 is canceled without prejudice. Similarly, since claim 16 depends directly from claim 13, claim 13 is amended to include the limitations of claim 16, and claim 16 is canceled without prejudice. Claims 17-19 are duplicative and are canceled, without prejudice. Thus, applicant submits that claims 1 and 13 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-15 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Lech et al. (US 6,539,271). The rejections of claims 1 and 13 are moot in view of the amendments of those claims into allowable form, as discussed above. Claims 2, 3, 12, 14 and 15 depend from claims 1 and 13, and are similarly allowable.

Dependent claims 4 and 16, which are indicated as allowable, are directed to the subject matter of calculating a yield rate from the inspected result information and comparing the yield rate with a prearranged yield rate, predictively calculating a product shortage number when the yield rate is lower than the prearranged yield rate, and transmitting the predictively calculated product shortage number to the product-manufacturing company along with the inspected result information.

This subject matter, which the Action concedes is not taught by Lech by virtue of its allowance of claims 4 and 16, has also been incorporated into

independent claims 8 and 11. Thus, claims 8 and 11, as amended are allowable for the same reasons set as claims 4 and 16.

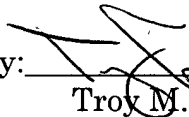
Claim 6, which is allowed, includes the subject matter of recognizing a product-manufacturing company based on an issued manufacturing number and establishing an access right for accessing inspected result information. This subject matter, which is not disclosed by Lech and appears to be responsible for the allowance of claim 6, has been incorporated into independent claims 5, 7, 9, 10 and 20. Thus, claims 5, 7, 9, 10 and 20 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 6.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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